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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 774
By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William Andrew Cannon.

WHEREAS, the most prominent glory of a country is in its great men. A nation's spirit and its success depend on its willingness to learn from their example; and

WHEREAS, in life we find many men that are great, and some men that are good, but very few men that are both great and good . . . William Andrew Cannon was one such man; and

WHEREAS, William Andrew Cannon was born on August 25, 1920, a native of Sweeny, Texas, and longtime resident of the State of Mississippi, and he traversed these earthy bounds on February 28, 2002; and

WHEREAS, William Andrew Cannon graduated from Corinth High School in Corinth, Mississippi in 1938, and attended the Western Kentucky University School of Business in Bowling Green from 1938 to 1941; and

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WHEREAS, he became a managing partner of the Ban Bibber Lumber Plant in Fulton, Mississippi, after college and later joined the United States Air Force to serve in World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cannon served his country with pride and distinction during World War II; he was a pilot, stationed in Foggia, Italy, from 1943 to 1946, and he held the rank of 1st Lieutenant with the 463rd Bombardment Group of the United States 15th Air Force; and

WHEREAS, during this perilous time, he and other members of the 463rd Bombardment Group exhibited commendable efficiency in skill, devotion, courage, and determination while facing intense enemy opposition over the skies of Germany and Eastern Europe, flying gallantly through in wing formation to reach designated targets; and

WHEREAS, after receiving an honorable discharge in May, 1946, William was the recipient of the Second Presidential Unit Citation for his extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty in military operation against the enemy at Ploesti on May 18, 1944, and at the Daimler Benz Tank Works in Berlin on March 24, 1945; and

WHEREAS, upon his discharge from the United States Air Force in 1946, Mr. Cannon returned to the Van Bibber Lumber Plant in Fulton, Mississippi, serving as a partner until 1954, prior to joining the United States Department of Defense in 1955 in Naples, Italy, where he worked as Maintenance Control Engineer for Public Works at the Naval Support Facility where he received many honors for his outstanding service; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, he joined the Naval Communications Mediterranean as Facility Manager, retiring from that important position on March 31, 1990; and

WHEREAS, having received numerous awards for active service, William Andrew Cannon, was also the recipient of the Department of the Navy's Meritorious Award for Civilian Service at the time of his retirement, and he also received a commendation certificate for 38 years of devoted service to the United States government; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished life, William Andrew Cannon was an inspiration to all the lives he touched through his courageous patriotic leadership, his ethics and integrity; his congenial nature, constructive attitude, dedication to his country, and forthright manner made a positive impact on those who had the pleasure of knowing him; and

WHEREAS, the passion, dedication, intelligence, patriotism, and social consciousness Mr. Cannon brought to this great country will never be forgotten, and his influence will continue; and

WHEREAS, his countless achievements and honors aside, Mr. Cannon was most appreciative of the love and support he shared with his family; he was the devoted husband of Lucy de Forcade de Biaix, a member of the Italian aristocracy, whom he married on the Isle of Capri in 1945; the loving father of a son, Fred, and a daughter, Tina Jennie; and the proud grandfather of six grandchildren, Carlo, Crystel, Francesco, Elena, Lauren, and Guglielimo; and

WHEREAS, his death on February 28, 2002, has left a void that cannot be filled, and he is mourned across the length and breadth of the Volunteer State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of Mr. William Andrew Cannon, and extend to his family and friends our heartfelt condolences.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mr. Cannon's family, with this final clause omitted from such copy.